



DRAFT FOR REVIEW
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State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference 2000 Implementing Indicators

Draft for Discussion at SOLEC 2000

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State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference 2000 - Implementing Indicators

Introduction

This report is a collection of summary reports on [25] Great Lakes environmental indicators. Its purpose is to provide SOLEC participants an advanced look at the status of Great Lakes ecosystem components based on the suite of 80 indicators proposed at SOLEC 1998.

Each indicator report was authored by one or more people who are familiar with the subject area and data sources. Acknowledgments are included in each report. SOLEC organizers provided the authors with guidelines for the preparation of the report. The indicator reports have been reformatted to a common page layout style, but the content has not been edited. **These indicator reports should be considered DRAFT - for SOLEC Review.**

These indicators will be presented and discussed at SOLEC 2000. Participants will have opportunities to provide additional data or data sources, contribute overall assessments about the status of the Great Lakes, and debate implications of the indicators and assessments for environmental management. Based on the information in these indicators, on feedback and analyses received at SOLEC 2000, and on additional information obtained after SOLEC 2000, a State of the Great Lakes 2001 report will be prepared which will contain both the final indicator summary reports and assessments of Great Lakes ecosystem components based on the indicators.

The indicators in this report are grouped according to the SOLEC categories of nearshore and offshore open waters, coastal wetlands, nearshore terrestrial (including land use), human health, and unbounded. Other groupings are equally valid, depending on the perspective of the user. A table is included in Appendix A of this report that lists all the SOLEC indicators and identifies to which of several alternate groupings each indicator is relevant. Previous versions of this table have appeared in the **State of the Great Lakes 1999** report and in the **Selection of Indicators for Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Health - Version 4**.

This is the first attempt to assemble data and to present summary assessments for the SOLEC indicators. Not all

the SOLEC indicators are included in this report.

Several reasons are possible for SOLEC indicators to be absent from this report:

- 7 The data exist but they were not retrieved and summarized by the time this report was assembled and printed. These indicator summaries should be available for distribution at SOLEC 2000.
- 7 The data exist, but they were not accessible to indicator authors within the constraints of time and personnel available. The information might be available for the State of the Great Lakes 2001 report, but not for consideration at SOLEC 2000.
- 7 The required data have not been collected. Changes to existing monitoring programs or the initiation of new monitoring programs are needed to collect and analyze the data.
- 7 The indicator is still under development. More research and/or testing is needed before the indicator can be implemented.

Also, not all indicators presented here are complete. Some have data for selected geographic areas, but not for all the Great Lakes. Some present only part of the data that are proposed for a complete indicator.

Over the next several years, more of the SOLEC indicators will be phased in. Monitoring programs will be adjusted, information management systems put into place, and research and testing completed to refine the indicators. Meanwhile, readers are encouraged to assist in the biennial assessment of the Great Lakes by reading the indicator reports and providing constructive feedback on their content, format, data, conclusions and implications for management.

For further details of the indicator development process and of previous SOLEC conferences can be found on the web at: <http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/solec/> and <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec/>